



SAFETY OFFICER



So you're the club's safety officer. Congratulations! You have the important job of setting up your club's safety program that will make all club members, their parents and people in the community.

- Practice safety
- Identify accident hazards
- Remove hazards
- Prepare for emergencies

Safety officer should request from their county Extension agent additional safety leader materials, including slide sets, films, brochures and exhibits.

Why Have a Safety Program?

Almost everyone can recall a serious accident that occurred to a friend or relative. It isn't fun to be hurt. Club members with broken arms or legs can't play ball or go swimming. Parents must pay the costly doctor and hospital bills. An effective safety program will help prevent many of these painful, costly accidents.

What Should You Emphasize?

Areas needing attention include the following:

- Bicycle
- Horses
- Safety in the home
- Power lawn mower
- Highway safety
- Farm tractor and machinery
- Fire prevention
- Water safety
- Safe use of pesticides
- Recreation

Author

Albert R. Pugh
Leader, Safety (Retired)
The Ohio State University

Reviewed By

Robert L. Horton
Extension 4-H Specialist
Curriculum Design

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Where Can You Get Help?

Your adult leader also has a copy of this guide. Ask both the adult and junior leaders to assist in planning. Additional help is available from:

- Club members' parents
- County Extension office
- Vocational agriculture, home economics and other teachers
- Nurses and doctors
- Highway patrol, sheriff or other law enforcement officials
- County department of health
- Fire chief or other fireman
- Local emergency medical squad
- Red Cross
- Safety director of industrial firms
- Civic-minded automobile dealers or auto equipment suppliers
- Garden store operators
- Local film libraries (public library, auto club, insurance agents, safety councils)

Your club safety program should include activities at regular club meetings and club group activities. These group activities may be geared to inform the public in your community.

What Can You Do at Regular Club Meetings?

Have a safety activity at every meeting. These activities could range from a two- or three-minute discussion to a program that takes the full time allowed for educational activities. Here are some ideas:

Roll Call

Have the members respond to roll call by naming a hazard removed, making a safety suggestion, describing a recent accident or giving a safety slogan.

Presentation from Resource Person

For example, have a nurse or home economics teacher come to your club meeting to discuss safety and baby sitting, or conduct a county-wide meeting where a state highway patrolman or sheriff talks on highway safety.

Speak for Safety Activity

Have all members prepare a one- to three-minute talk on any safety subject. Encourage them to get help from their parents. Be sure to recognize a job well done. Encourage all members to enter the county health and safety speaking contest.

Make Safety a Part of Every Project

You and your 4-H advisors should emphasize the safety aspect of every job as it is performed.

Statewide Safety Poster Contest

Encourage members to participate in the statewide safety poster contest sponsored by the Ohio Farm and Home Safety Committee.

Demonstrations

Safety demonstrations can be presented at club meetings, service clubs, school assemblies, on TV or at a community meeting. Following are examples of demonstrations that could be used, or that could be a guide in preparing other demonstrations.

Demonstration 1

Selection and Use of Proper Fire Extinguishers (suggested for older youth presentation)

Purpose

To help club members understand how a fire extinguisher works and how to select the proper types.

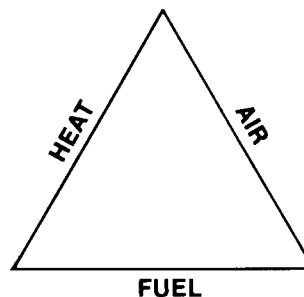
Materials Needed

- One extinguisher each with
 - 5 lbs. CO₂
 - 2½-5 lbs. dry chemical under pressure
 - 2½-5 lbs. multipurpose ABC
 - Pressurized water
 - A tub or bucket

All extinguishers should carry approved label of Underwriters' Laboratories, Factory Mutual or U.S. Coast Guard. (Contact local fire extinguisher dealer or fire department. Perhaps they will provide extinguishers for demonstration.)

Procedure

1. Discuss chemistry of fire by using fire triangle. Three essentials are necessary for a fire—fuel, heat and air. Shut off the supply of one and the fire goes out.



2. Explain the classes of fires.
 - Class A—combustible materials: wood, paper, clothing
 - Class B—flammable liquids: gasoline, oil, paint, etc.
 - Class C—electricity
3. Describe other types of extinguishers and explain how they should be used. Actually discharge pressurized water in a tub or bucket. CO₂ can be discharged on the floor.

Precautions

- The horn on a CO₂ extinguisher gets extremely cold when discharged.
- Avoid direct contact with released CO₂.
- Always buy extinguishers approved by either Underwriters' Laboratories, Factory Mutual or U.S. Coast Guard.
- Never use water on fire of an electrical origin or a gasoline or oil fire.

Conclusions

- Class A fires—use water, multipurpose ABC.
- Class B fires—use CO₂, standard dry chemical, multipurpose ABC.
- Class C fires—use CO₂, standard dry chemical, multipurpose ABC.
- Kitchen fires—use 5 lbs. CO₂ or multipurpose ABC.
- Tractor fires—use 2½ lbs. standard dry chemical or multipurpose ABC.

Demonstration 2

Fire Warning Systems in the Home

Purpose

To have people understand how smoke detectors work and how they detect smoke and gases.

Materials Needed

- Smoke detector
- Matches
- Metal pie or cake pan
- Cotton fabric

Procedures

1. Place cotton fabric in metal pan and light it with a match to produce smoke. Hold the smoke detector over the pan to activate the alarm. This demonstration shows how the unit operates.

2. Discuss how a smoke detector works and how it can save lives. Explain where the detectors should be installed.

Fire kills more than 5,000 people each year in the United States. It is estimated that half of these fire deaths could have been prevented by a smoke detector.

Why should a smoke detector be installed?

- It provides an early warning of fire.
- It detects smoke and gases.

What type of smoke detector should I buy?

- Battery and house current units can be purchased.
- Photo-electric cell vs. ionization type
- Install one or two
- Locate near sleeping area
- Installation on ceiling vs. wall
- Maintenance and testing

3. A detector can warn a person of danger, but there must be an evacuation plan. An escape plan should be developed, and practice your plan to see if it works. Establish a meeting place.

4. Contact your local fire department for information and assistance. Have club members design an escape plan for their home.

What Can You Do for a Group Activity?

Group activities in safety can be very effective.

- Participate in county-wide emphasis program—Check with your county Extension office regarding the emphasis program. The agents will provide materials and give assistance.

- Create an exhibit on safety—An exhibit can be used in many places during the year such as county fairs, achievement days, store windows and shopping centers.

- Develop a scrapbook of accidents—The safety committee chairman can ask members to clip stories from newspapers and bring to meetings.

- Go to court as a visitor not a violator. Include parents on this trip.

- Sponsor a safety meeting for other 4-H clubs or groups in your community.

- Work with local radio and TV stations to present safety spot announcements.

- Initiate a bicycle safety program with local service clubs, safety councils or police.

- Conduct special programs during Farm Safety Week and other special safety weeks.

- Initiate or sponsor safety activities at your county 4-H camp.

How Can Your County Extension 4-H Committee Help?

The county Extension 4-H Advisory Committee can do many things to help local clubs:

- Coordinate county-wide safety activities.
- Arrange for sponsors.
- Secure cooperation of commercial firms, farm organizations, radio, TV and newspapers for county-wide activities.
- Provide awards for local clubs.
- Arrange for kick-off of a county-wide safety program.
- Sponsor a county-wide safety speaking activity and/or safety demonstration contest.

Safety Is Everyone's Responsibility

Activity Sheet

Plan a safety activity for each meeting. Limit the activity to 3-5 minutes. Safety should be a part of all of your activities. The following activities can help point out the need to think and act in a safe manner.

Prepare for a Fire in Your Home

Each home should have a fire escape plan. Have 4-H members develop an escape plan for their home. Encourage them to take it home and talk with other members of the family.

Loss of Arm or Hand

Each of you could be injured during work or at play. Safety is a personal thing that requires you to observe certain rules and conduct yourself in a safe manner. What if you lost a hand or arm, how would you tie your shoe or button a shirt?

Have 4-H members try to tie a shoe with only one hand. This will point out the need for safety practices and will help them better understand the difficulties facing someone who has lost an arm or hand. Discuss how someone can lose an arm or hand in an accident.

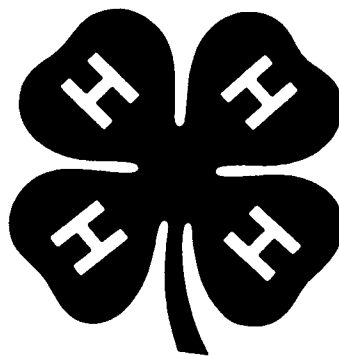
Blindfold

People take their eyes for granted. The importance of eyesight is hard to realize.

Have 4-H members pair up and take turns wearing a blindfold to simulate a person without sight. Someone could demonstrate how hard it is to walk around the room blindfolded. This exercise will demonstrate the need for safety glasses and eye protection.

Recreation Hazards

The safety and recreation officer should design an activity around sports activities or games to point out potential hazards. Club members should discuss these hazards after the activity and what could be changed.



The 4-H Pledge

I pledge:
my head to clearer thinking,
my heart to greater loyalty,
my hands to larger service, and
my health to better living,
for my club, my community, and country
and my world
